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Admiralty Office, June 26.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Admiral Byng to Mr. Clevland, Secretary of the Admiralty. Dated on board the Ramillies off Minorca, May 25, 1756.

I Have the Pleaſure to deſire that you will acquaint their Lordſhips, that having ſailed from Gibraltar the 8th, I got off Mahon the 19th, having been joined by His Majeſty's Ship Phœnix off Majorca two Days before, when the Enemy's Fleet appeared to the S. E. Falling little Wind, it was Five before I could form my Line, and diſtinguiſh any of the Enemy's Motions, and not at all judge of their Force more than by their Numbers, which were ſeventeen, and thirteen of thoſe appeared large. They at firſt ſtood towards us in a regular Line, and tacked about Seven, which I judged was to endeavour to gain the Wind of us in the Night, ſo that, being late, I tacked, in order to keep the Weather Gage of them, as well as to make ſure of the Land Wind: In the Morning, being very hazy, and not above five Leagues off Cape Mola, we tacked off towards the Enemy at Eleven, and at Day-Light had no Sight of them; but two Tartans, with the French private Signal, being cloſe in with the Rear of our Fleet, I ſent the Princeſs Louiſa to chaſe one, and made the Signal for the Rear Admiral, who was neareſt the other, to ſend Ships to chaſe her. The Princeſs Louiſa, Defiance, and Captain, became at a great Diſtance, but the Defiance took her's, which had two Captains, two Lieutenants, and One hundred and two private Soldiers, who were ſent out the Day before with Six hundred Men, on board Tartans, to reinforce the French Fleet, on our then appearing off the Place. The Phœnix (on Capt. Hervey's offer) prepared to ſerve as a Fire Ship, but without damaging her as a Frigate till the Signal was made to prime, when ſhe was then to ſcuttle her Decks, every Thing elſe being prepared at the Time and Place allowed of. The Enemy now began to appear from the Maſt-head: I called in the Cruizers, and when they had joined me, I tacked towards the Enemy, and form'd the Line a-head; I found the French were preparing theirs to Leeward, having unſucceſsfully endeavoured to weather me: They were twelve large Ships of the Line and five Frigates. As ſoon as I judged the Rear of ours was the Length of their Van, we tacked alltogether, and I immediately made the Signal for the Ships that led to lead large, and for the Deptford to quit the Line, that ours might become equal in Number with theirs. At Two I made the Signal to engage, as I found it was the ſureſt Method of ordering every Ship to cloſe down on the one that fell to their Lot. And here I muſt expreſs my great Satisfaction at the very gallant Manner in which the Rear Admiral ſet the Van the Example, by inſtantly bearing down on the Ships he was to engage, with his Second, and who occaſioned one of the French Ships to begin the Engagement, which they did by raking ours as they went down: I bore right down on the Ship that lay oppoſite to me, and began to engage him, after having received their Fire for ſome Time on going down. The Intrepid, in the very Beginning, had his Foretop-maſt ſhot away, and as that hung on his Foreſail and backed it, he had no Command of his Ship, his Foretack, and all his Braces being cut at the ſame Time, ſo that he drove on the next Ship to him, and obliged that, and the Ships a-head of me, to throw all a-back: This obliged me to do ſo alſo for ſome Minutes, to avoid their falling all on board me, though not before we had drove our Adverſary out of the Line, who put before the Wind, and had ſeveral Shot fired at him from his own Admiral. This not only cauſed the Enemy's Center to be unattacked, but left the Rear Admiral's Diviſion rather uncover'd for ſome very little Time. I ſent and called to the Ships a-head of me, to make ſail on and go down on the Enemy, and ordered the Cheſterfield to lay by the Intrepid, and the Deptford to ſupply the Intrepid's Place. I found the Enemy edged away conſtantly; and as they went three Feet to our one, they would never permit our cloſing with them, but take the Advantage of deſtroying our Rigging; for tho' I cloſed the Rear Admiral faſt, yet

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yet I found I could not again close the Enemy, whose Van were fairly drove from their Line, but their Admiral was joining them by bearing away. By this Time it was past Six, and the Enemy's Van and ours were at too great a Distance to engage; I perceived some of their Ships stretching to the Northward, and I imagined they were going to form a new Line. I made the Signal for the headmost Ships to tack, and those that led before with the Larboard Tacks, to lead with the Starboard, that I might, by the first, keep (if possible) the Wind of the Enemy; and, by the second, be between the Rear Admiral's Division and the Enemy, as his had suffer'd most, as also to cover the Intrepid, which I perceived to be in a very bad Condition, and whose Loss would give the Ballance against us, if they attack'd us the next Morning, as I expected. I brought too about Eight that Night, to join the Intrepid, and to refit our Ships as fast as possible, and continued so all Night. The next Morning we saw nothing of the Enemy, tho' we were still laying too: Mahon was N. N. W. about Ten or Eleven Leagues. I sent Cruizers out to look for the Intrepid and Chesterfield, who joined me next Day; and having, from a State and Condition of the Squadron brought me in, found that the Captain, Intrepid, and Defiance (which latter has lost her Captain) were very much damaged in their Masts, I thought it proper, in this Situation, to call a Council of War, before I went again to look for the Enemy. I desired the Attendance of General Stuart, Lord Effingham, and Lord Robert Bertie, and Colonel Cornwallis, that I might collect their Opinions upon the present Situation, at which Council not the least Contention or Doubt arose. I do not send their Lordships the Particulars of our Losses and Damage by this, as it would take me much Time, and that I am willing none should be lost in letting them know an Event of such Consequence. I dispatch this to Sir Benjamin Keene, by Way of Barcelona, and am making the best of my Way to Gibraltar, from which Place I propose sending their Lordships a more particular Account.

P. S. I must desire you will acquaint their Lordships, that I have appointed Captain Hervey to the Command of the Defiance, in the room of Captain Andrews, slain in the Action.

I have just sent the Defects of the Ships, as I have got it made out whilst I was closing my Letter.

STATE of the English *and* French *Fleets in the late Action in the* Mediterranean, *with the Number of Persons killed and wounded in each Ship.*

ENGLISH.

Ships.	Number of Guns.	Commanders.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
Ramillies,	90	Admiral Byng, Captain Gardner,	—	—	—
Buckingham,	70	Rear-Admiral West, Captain Everit,	3	7	10
Culloden,	74	Ward,	—	—	—
Captain,	70	Catford,	6	30	36
Revenge,	70	Cornewall,	—	—	—
Lancaster,	66	Edgecumbe,	1	14	15
Trident,	64	Durell,	—	—	—
Intrepid,	64	Young,	9	39	48
Kingston,	60	Parry,	—	—	—
Princess Louisa,	60	Noel,	4	13	17
Defiance,	60	Andrews,	14	45	59
Portland,	50	Baird,	6	20	26
Deptford,	50	Amherst,	—	—	—
	848		43	168	211
Frigates.					
Chesterfield,	44	Lloyd,			
Experiment,	24	Gilchrist,			
Dolphin,	24	—			
Phœnix,	24	Hervey,			
Fortune,	14	Maplesden.			

FRENCH

FRENCH.

Ships.	Number of Guns.	Commanders.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
Le Foudroyant,	80	La Galiſſoniere, Lieutenant General,	2	10	12
Le Redoutable,	74	Glandeves, Chef d'Eſcadre,	12	39	51
La Couronne,	74	La Clu, Chef d'Eſcadre,	—	3	3
Le Temeraire,	74	Beaumont,	—	15	15
Le Guerrier,	74	La Broſſe,	—	43	43
Le Lion,	64	St. Agnan,	2	7	9
Le Sage,	64	Duruen,	—	8	8
L'Orphée,	64	Raimondis,	10	9	19
Le Content,	64	Sabran,	5	19	24
Le Triton,	64	Mercier,	5	14	19
L'Hipotame,	50	Rochemaure,	2	10	12
Le Fier,	50	D'Herville,	—	4	4
	796		38	181	219
Frigates.					
La Junon,	46	Beausfier,			
La Roſe,	26	Coſtebelle,			
La Gracieuſe,	24	Marquizan,			
La Topaze,	24	Carne,			
La Nimphe,	24	Callian.			

Conſtantinople, May 15. The Vizir arrived here on the 3d Inſtant; ſince that Time he has been occupied with receiving ceremonious Viſits, and regulating the Price of Proviſions, &c. The Caimachan has reaſſumed his former Poſt of Janizar Aga. The Foreign Miniſters began their publick Audiences on the 10th. The Venetian Ambaſſador, Cavalier Dona, having received the Preſents that Republick ſends the Sultan, has taken upon him the Character of Ambaſſador Extraordinary, and notified as ſuch to the Porte and Foreign Miniſters. As the Ramezan is approaching, he has already made his publick Entry, and this Day had his Audience of the Vizir, and on Tueſday he will have that of the Grand Seignor. Prince Dolghorucky, the Ruſſian Envoy Extraordinary, who is ſent by the Empreſs to compliment the Sultan on his Acceſſion, arrived here on the 6th, and the next Day notified as uſual; both he, and the Poliſh Envoy Count Mniſzeck, expect to have their publick Audiences before Ramezan, which begins the 29th Inſtant.

Copenhagen, June 7. The King is expected from Holſtein ſome Time next Week. A Placard is publiſhed here, prohibiting, under ſevere Penalties, the Exportation of all Kinds of Grain out of Denmark and Norway till the End of September next.

Dreſden, June 13. On Wedneſday laſt the 9th Inſtant, his Poliſh Majeſty ſet out for Kargau, an Eſtate in Poland belonging to Count Unruh, Twenty-four German Miles from this Place, where he arrived that Evening, and ſigned the Univerſalia for the Diet; and the next Day returned here. The Prince of Schwartzenberg arrived here a few Days ago, in order to execute a Commiſſion from their Imperial Majeſties. The Saxon Commiſſaries returned here from Halle a few Days ago.

Hamburgh, June 15. Their Highneſſes the three young Princes of Heſſe-Caſſel, who have been here during the King of Denmark's Stay at Altona, ſet out Yeſterday Morning on their Return to Gottingue. His Daniſh Majeſty has made a Preſent to each Prince of a Gold Snuff-Box ſet with Diamonds to a conſiderable Value: And to the Duke of Saxe-Hilbourgſhauſen, Brother-in-law to the King, of a Gold Watch ſet with Brilliants.

Amſterdam, June 16. The Admiralty has cauſed publick Notice to be given, that the Phœnix Man of War, commanded by Captain van Stocken, will ſail from the Texel, the firſt fair Wind after the 1ſt of July next, for the Levant, in order to convoy the Trade bound for thoſe Parts.

Hague, June 17. Her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Governante has appointed M. Haubner to be Comptroller General of the Artillery, in the Room of M. vander Lingen, who has obtained Leave to reſign. By our laſt Advices from Dieren, the eldeſt Princeſs Dowager of Orange is arrived there, and propoſes ſtaying till her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Governante and her Children return to the Hague.

Bruſſels,